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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

9/8  
6/4/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 1037  
Kouki FUKUI : Docket No. 2001\_0681A  
Serial No. 09/870,480 : Group Art Unit 1772  
Filed June 1, 2001 : Examiner W. Aughenbaugh

NONCOMBUSTIBLE INSULATING DUCT

RECEIVED  
MAY 30 2003  
TC 1700

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action of February 27, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

In the Claims:

Kindly amend claims 15, 22, 28, 30, 31, 37 and 41 as follows.

15. (Amended) A noncombustible insulating duct comprising:

an elongated strip formed of an insulating material and a noncombustible sheet, wherein said noncombustible sheet is disposed continuously about a circumference of said insulating material so as to completely encase said insulating material when viewed in longitudinal cross section;

wherein said elongated strip is arranged in a spiral shape having a plurality of turns; wherein adjacent turns of said plurality of turns of said spiral shape are secured together by a bonding agent so as to form a tubular duct; and wherein said tubular duct is noncombustible.